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P.S. Population Studies

Number of households and average household size in Florida: 1960, 1970 and 1980

Stanley K. Smith, Population Program Director

This publication shows the number of households and average household size for Florida and each of its counties in 1960, 1970 and 1980. The data are from census enumerations conducted every ten years by the United States Bureau of the Census. Households are defined as housing units occupied by permanent residents. These are not to be confused with total housing units, which include vacant and seasonally occupied units as well as units occupied by permanent residents. According to the United States Bureau of the Census, a person is classified as a permanent resident of "...his usual place of residence, which is generally construed to mean the place where he lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as his legal residence, voting residence or domicile." The numbers shown in this bulletin refer only to the households and average household size of permanent Florida residents.

Number of households

The number of households in Florida has grown very rapidly during the last twenty years. Between 1960 and 1970 there was a net addition of 734,742 households, a 47 percent increase. This was more than double the 20 percent increase experienced by the United States as a whole. Growth during the 1970s was even faster than during the 1960s. Between 1970 and 1980 the number of households in Florida increased by 1,456,570, or 64 percent. This was again more than double the 27 percent increase for the United States.

Florida's 67 counties have not shared equally in this growth. Between 1960 and 1970 Dade and Broward counties grew by more than 100,000 households each, while Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty and Flagler counties grew by fewer than 200 each. On a percentage basis the most rapidly growing counties during the 1960s were Collier, Charlotte, Pasco, Citrus, Lee, Brevard and Broward, each of which more than doubled the number of households. All seven of these counties are in the southern half of the state and the top five are along the west coast. The most slowly growing counties were Jefferson, Gadsden, Madison, Jackson and Gulf, all in the panhandle region. The number of households in

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Table 1.—Number of households and average hous

STATE COUNTY	CENSUS APRIL 1, 1980		CENSUS APRIL 1, 1970		CENSUS APRIL 1, 1960	
	HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
FLORIDA	3,741,356	2.55	2,284,786	2.90	1,550,044	3.11
Alachua	54,607	2.60	31,115	3.06	19,516	3.36
Baker	4,243	3.22	2,229	3.62	1,743	3.93
Bay	34,754	2.76	23,403	3.18	18,331	3.52
Bradford	6,297	2.87	4,058	3.26	3,384	3.56
Brevard	101,783	2.64	68,560	3.30	32,655	3.35
Broward	415,339	2.42	222,563	2.76	108,602	3.03
Calhoun	3,221	2.84	2,393	3.18	2,032	3.63
Charlotte	26,207	2.25	11,668	2.35	4,699	2.67
Citrus	22,985	2.36	7,358	2.59	3,130	2.92
Clay	21,646	3.06	9,396	3.35	5,385	3.43
Collier	33,891	2.49	13,012	2.88	4,850	3.21
Columbia	12,183	2.87	7,669	3.24	5,587	3.53
Dade	609,883	2.63	428,026	2.91	308,325	2.98
De Soto	6,256	2.76	3,761	3.03	3,050	3.22
Dixie	2,663	2.76	1,708	3.19	1,296	3.41
Duval	208,341	2.69	161,666	3.14	129,503	3.40
Escambia	81,067	2.79	60,387	3.25	47,344	3.57
Flagler	4,359	2.49	1,488	2.96	1,298	3.38
Franklin	2,765	2.73	2,429	2.91	2,135	3.08
Gadsden	12,092	3.24	9,066	3.73	8,709	4.05
Gilchrist	2,006	2.82	1,146	3.10	824	3.48
Glades	2,224	2.69	1,115	3.24	789	3.36
Gulf	3,683	2.89	3,001	3.36	2,759	3.57
Hamilton	2,904	2.99	2,353	3.26	2,058	3.72
Hardee	6,253	3.05	4,368	3.36	3,643	3.33
Hendry	5,959	3.06	3,617	3.26	2,355	3.36
Hernando	17,735	2.48	6,084	2.77	3,539	3.14
Highlands	18,960	2.43	10,468	2.78	6,855	3.08
Hillsborough	237,943	2.66	158,750	3.02	123,158	3.17
Holmes	5,244	2.79	3,550	3.00	3,129	3.46
Indian River	23,331	2.49	12,325	2.90	8,247	3.05
Jackson	13,332	2.76	10,295	3.10	9,694	3.54
Jefferson	3,486	3.04	2,481	3.50	2,463	3.85
Lafayette	1,413	2.86	955	3.03	848	3.39
Lake	41,650	2.47	24,621	2.77	18,388	3.02
Lee	82,509	2.46	37,313	2.77	17,712	3.04
Leon	54,103	2.57	31,022	3.03	19,420	3.44
Levy	7,267	2.70	4,175	3.04	3,135	3.27
Liberty	1,485	2.82	1,064	3.17	898	3.49
Madison	4,977	2.98	4,000	3.29	3,781	3.74
Manatee	61,998	2.36	38,488	2.50	24,628	2.78
Marion	45,458	2.64	22,317	3.03	15,305	3.30
Martin	25,863	2.40	10,122	2.72	5,711	2.92
Monroe	26,340	2.34	16,827	2.89	13,744	3.10
Nassau	10,976	2.98	6,018	3.42	4,601	3.71
Okaloosa	37,538	2.84	24,915	3.38	16,114	3.63
Okeechobee	6,981	2.85	3,178	3.34	1,760	3.43
Orange	170,985	2.67	108,645	3.07	79,855	3.21
Osceola	18,615	2.60	9,092	2.74	6,761	2.78
Palm Beach	232,937	2.42	123,347	2.78	76,178	2.92
Pasco	81,602	2.34	30,361	2.46	12,286	2.91
Pinellas	319,469	2.25	211,301	2.43	141,825	2.60
Polk	114,394	2.70	73,024	3.05	57,566	3.29
Putnam	18,397	2.72	11,494	3.12	9,372	3.41
St. Johns	18,623	2.65	10,004	2.93	9,097	3.13
St. Lucie	32,506	2.65	16,847	2.98	12,052	3.20
Santa Rosa	18,595	2.94	10,846	3.34	7,598	3.62
Sarasota	88,739	2.25	48,634	2.44	27,682	2.74
Seminole	63,247	2.82	25,757	3.23	15,899	3.37
Sumter	8,582	2.68	4,627	3.05	3,485	3.38
Suwannee	7,739	2.84	4,855	3.16	4,231	3.49
Taylor	5,826	2.83	4,227	3.22	3,672	3.56
Union	2,119	2.95	1,639	3.25	1,170	3.71
Volusia	105,773	2.39	62,747	2.62	45,059	2.72
Wakulla	3,730	2.89	1,926	3.26	1,455	3.61
Walton	8,043	2.64	5,270	3.05	4,486	3.45
Washington	5,235	2.75	3,620	3.14	3,183	3.51

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old size for Florida counties: 1960, 1970, 1980

NUMERICAL CHANGE				PERCENTAGE CHANGE				
HOUSEHOLDS		AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE		HOUSEHOLDS		AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE		STATE
1970-1980	1960-1970	1970-1980	1960-1970	1970-1980	1960-1970	1970-1980	1960-1970	COUNTY
1,456,570	734,742	-0.35	-0.21	63.8	47.4	-12.1	-6.8	FLORIDA
23,492	11,599	-0.46	-0.30	75.5	59.4	-15.0	-8.9	Alachua
2,014	486	-0.40	-0.31	90.4	27.9	-11.0	-7.9	Baker
11,351	5,072	-0.42	-0.34	48.5	27.7	-13.2	-9.7	Bay
2,239	674	-0.39	-0.30	55.2	19.9	-12.0	-8.4	Bradford
33,223	35,905	-0.66	-0.05	48.5	110.0	-20.0	-1.5	Brevard
192,776	113,961	-0.34	-0.27	86.6	104.9	-12.3	-8.9	Broward
828	361	-0.34	-0.45	34.6	17.8	-10.7	-12.4	Calhoun
14,539	6,969	-0.10	-0.32	124.6	148.3	-4.3	-12.0	Charlotte
15,627	4,228	-0.23	-0.33	212.4	135.1	-8.9	-11.3	Citrus
12,250	4,011	-0.29	-0.08	130.4	74.5	-8.7	-2.3	Clay
20,879	8,162	-0.39	-0.33	160.5	168.3	-13.5	-10.3	Collier
4,514	2,082	-0.37	-0.29	58.9	37.3	-11.4	-8.2	Columbia
181,857	119,701	-0.28	-0.07	42.5	38.8	-9.6	-2.3	Dade
2,495	711	-0.27	-0.19	66.3	23.3	-8.9	-5.9	De Soto
955	412	-0.43	-0.22	55.9	31.8	-13.5	-6.5	Dixie
46,675	32,163	-0.45	-0.26	28.9	24.8	-14.3	-7.6	Duval
20,680	13,043	-0.46	-0.32	34.2	27.5	-14.2	-9.0	Escambia
2,871	190	-0.47	-0.42	192.9	14.6	-15.9	-12.4	Flagler
336	294	-0.18	-0.17	13.8	13.8	-6.2	-5.5	Franklin
3,026	357	-0.49	-0.32	33.4	4.1	-13.1	-7.9	Gadsden
860	322	-0.28	-0.38	75.0	39.1	-9.0	-10.9	Gilchrist
1,109	326	-0.55	-0.12	99.5	41.3	-17.0	-3.6	Glades
682	242	-0.47	-0.21	22.7	8.8	-14.0	-5.9	Gulf
551	295	-0.27	-0.46	23.4	14.3	-8.3	-12.4	Hamilton
1,885	725	-0.31	0.03	43.2	19.9	-9.2	0.9	Hardee
2,342	1,262	-0.20	-0.10	64.7	53.6	-6.1	-3.0	Hendry
11,651	2,545	-0.29	-0.37	191.5	71.9	-10.5	-11.8	Hernando
8,492	3,613	-0.35	-0.30	81.1	52.7	-12.6	-9.7	Highlands
79,193	35,592	-0.36	-0.15	49.9	28.9	-11.9	-4.7	Hillsborough
1,694	421	-0.21	-0.46	47.7	13.5	-7.0	-13.3	Holmes
11,006	4,078	-0.41	-0.15	89.3	49.4	-14.1	-4.9	Indian River
3,037	601	-0.34	-0.44	29.5	6.2	-11.0	-12.4	Jackson
1,005	18	-0.46	-0.35	40.5	0.7	-13.1	-9.1	Jefferson
458	107	-0.17	-0.36	48.0	12.6	-5.6	-10.6	Lafayette
17,029	6,233	-0.30	-0.25	69.2	33.9	-10.8	-8.3	Lake
45,196	19,601	-0.31	-0.27	121.1	110.7	-11.2	-8.9	Lee
23,081	11,602	-0.46	-0.41	74.4	59.7	-15.2	-11.9	Leon
3,092	1,040	-0.34	-0.23	74.1	33.2	-11.2	-7.0	Levy
421	166	-0.35	-0.32	39.6	18.5	-11.0	-9.2	Liberty
977	219	-0.31	-0.45	24.4	5.8	-9.4	-12.0	Madison
23,510	13,860	-0.14	-0.28	61.1	56.3	-5.6	-10.1	Manatee
23,141	7,012	-0.39	-0.27	103.7	45.8	-12.9	-8.2	Marion
15,741	4,411	-0.32	-0.20	155.5	77.2	-11.8	-6.8	Martin
9,513	3,083	-0.55	-0.21	56.5	22.4	-19.0	-6.8	Monroe
4,958	1,417	-0.44	-0.29	82.4	30.8	-12.9	-7.8	Nassau
12,623	8,801	-0.54	-0.25	50.7	54.6	-16.0	-6.9	Okaloosa
3,803	1,418	-0.49	-0.09	119.7	80.6	-14.7	-2.6	Okeechobee
62,340	28,790	-0.40	-0.14	57.4	36.1	-13.0	-4.4	Orange
9,523	2,331	-0.14	-0.04	104.7	34.5	-5.1	-1.4	Osceola
109,590	47,169	-0.36	-0.14	88.8	61.9	-12.9	-4.8	Palm Beach
51,241	18,075	-0.12	-0.45	168.8	147.1	-4.9	-15.5	Pasco
108,168	69,476	-0.18	-0.17	51.2	49.0	-7.4	-6.5	Pinellas
41,370	15,458	-0.35	-0.24	56.7	26.9	-11.5	-7.3	Polk
6,903	2,122	-0.40	-0.29	60.1	22.6	-12.8	-8.5	Putnam
8,619	907	-0.28	-0.20	86.2	10.0	-9.6	-6.4	St. Johns
15,659	4,795	-0.33	-0.22	92.9	39.8	-11.1	-6.9	St. Lucie
7,749	3,248	-0.40	-0.28	71.4	42.7	-12.0	-7.7	Santa Rosa
40,105	20,952	-0.19	-0.30	82.5	75.7	-7.8	-10.9	Sarasota
37,490	9,858	-0.41	-0.14	145.6	62.0	-12.7	-4.2	Seminole
3,955	1,142	-0.37	-0.33	85.5	32.8	-12.1	-9.8	Sumter
2,884	624	-0.32	-0.33	59.4	14.7	-10.1	-9.5	Suwannee
1,599	555	-0.39	-0.34	37.8	15.1	-12.1	-9.6	Taylor
480	469	-0.30	-0.46	29.3	40.1	-9.2	-12.4	Union
43,026	17,688	-0.23	-0.10	68.6	39.3	-8.8	-3.7	Volusia
1,804	471	-0.37	-0.35	93.7	32.4	-11.3	-9.7	Wakulla
2,773	784	-0.41	-0.40	52.6	17.5	-13.4	-11.6	Walton
1,615	437	-0.39	-0.37	44.6	13.7	-12.4	-10.5	Washington

(Continued from Page 1)

these counties increased by less than 10 percent between 1960 and 1970.

Many of the trends of the 1960s continued during the 1970s. Broward, Dade, Palm Beach and Pinellas counties each grew by more than 100,000 households between 1970 and 1980. On a percentage basis the most rapidly growing counties were Citrus, Flagler, Hernando, Pasco and Collier. In each of these counties the number of households increased by more than 160 percent. At the other end of the spectrum Franklin, Liberty, Lafayette and Union counties added fewer than 500 households each during the 1970s. The most slowly growing counties in percentage terms were Franklin, Gulf, Hamilton, Madison, Duval, Union and Jackson; in each of these counties households increased by less than 30 percent. During the 1970s, as during the 1960s, the most slowly growing counties were in the northern part of the state, while the most rapidly growing counties were generally in the southern part. Exceptions were Flagler, Clay and Marion, northern counties which more than doubled in households between 1970 and 1980.

Average household size

Average household size has declined rapidly in recent years. In Florida average household size fell by 6.8 percent between 1960 and 1970, from 3.11 to 2.90. Between 1970 and 1980 it declined another 12.1 percent to 2.55. The causes of this decline nationally are lower birth rates and higher proportions of one-person households. In Florida an additional cause has been the heavy inmigration of older persons, who typically have only one or two persons per household.

There are large variations in average household size among Florida counties. Gadsden and Baker counties have the largest households with an average of more than 3.2 persons per household. Charlotte, Pinellas and Sarasota have the smallest, with an average of only 2.25. Eighteen counties have fewer than 2.5 persons per household and only six have more than 3.0. This is in sharp contrast to 1970 when 44 counties had more than 3.0 persons per household and only four had fewer than 2.5

Brevard, Glades, Monroe and Okaloosa counties had the largest declines in average household size between 1970 and 1980, each with declines of more than 0.5 persons per household. Charlotte, Pasco, Manatee, Osceola, Lafayette, Franklin, Pinellas and Sarasota counties had the smallest declines, each declining by fewer than 0.2 persons per household.

The large variation in average household size among counties is caused by differences in demographic composition. Two of the most important demographic factors are race and age. On the average, blacks have larger households than whites and younger people have larger households than older people. Counties with a young population and/or a large proportion of blacks tend to have a relatively large average household size, while counties with an older population and/or a small proportion of blacks tend to have a relatively small average household size. Much of the variation in average household size among Florida counties can be explained by differences in the race and age composition of the population.

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Bureau of Economic and Business Research
University of Florida
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